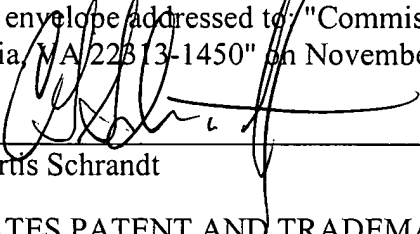




CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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Curtis Schrandt

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S) : Naomi NAKAO  
SERIAL NO. : 09/978,413  
FILED : 10/16/2001  
FOR : Endoscopic Retractor  
GROUP ART UNIT : 3731  
EXAMINER : Vix NGUYEN

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AMENDMENT

S I R:

In response to the Office Action of August 11, 2004, applicant requests that the application be amended as follows. Pursuant to current practice, all pending claims, including original claims, previously presented claims, withdrawn claims, and currently amended claims are presented below. Canceled claims are indicated as such.

Underlining indicates additions made herein, while deletions made herein are indicated by strikethrough or double brackets. A Request for Continued Examination is enclosed.